

Media release

Friday, November 20, 2015

Illegal hunter's firearms and equipment to be destroyed

A 19 year old Alexandra man has been prosecuted and fined \$2900 for a number of hunting and firearms offences, thanks to a joint operation targeting a popular recreation area near Lake Eildon.

Game Management Authority (GMA) CEO Greg Hyams said the man, who appeared in the Mansfield Magistrates Court, has had his firearms and hunting equipment taken away.

"This was a joint prosecution by the GMA, Victoria Police and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and the result of a targeted operation patrolling Walshs Road on the Delatite Arm Reserve of Lake Eildon," Mr Hyams said.

"The operation was conducted to specifically target illegal spotlighting of deer in a popular camping area near Lake Eildon in an effort to ensure the safety of all visitors to the area."

During the operation a GMA officer recovered spotlights, ammunition and firearm parts suspected of being used for illegal hunting.

After a short investigation officers took possession of four rifles registered to the Alexandra man.

Courts take firearms and illegal hunting offences seriously, the GMA is working with other Government agencies and the broader community to stamp out this type of illegal and dangerous activity.

Mr Hyams said illegal hunting can put people and wildlife at risk and damages the reputation of legal hunters.

"Possession of unsecured spotlights and firearms in recognised deer habitat 30 minutes after sunset and 30 minutes before sunrise is an offence under the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012."

"Hunters are generally a law-abiding group but there are some who choose to do the wrong thing, if you break the law you can be prosecuted and have your equipment confiscated plus lose your Game and Firearms Licences."

"I strongly encourage hunters and the general public to report any illegal hunting by calling 136 186 or the police."

For more information on game hunting in Victoria and to download deer hunting maps, visit www.gma.vic.gov.au.

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